

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Erb, Christopher, House

and/or common Stone Arch Farm

## 2. Location

street & number 3333 Flickinger Road n/a not for publication

city, town Silver Run ☒ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland code 24 county Carroll code 013

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Edward D. and Jeri Y. Greenberg

street & number 3333 Flickinger Road

city, town Westminster n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21157

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Courthouse Annex

street & number 55 North Court Street

city, town Westminster state Maryland 21157

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 7. Description

CARR-825

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved date n/a

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance****Number of Resources****Contributing**20103**Noncontributing**0 buildings0 sites0 structures0 objects0 Total**Number of previously listed****National Register properties**included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions  
and uses: agriculture, residential

**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

The Christopher Erb House is a Pennsylvania German style stone structure constructed in 1799. It is built into a bank with its south elevation containing a ground-level basement with a double-tiered porch. It has a number of exterior and interior features representative of the Pennsylvania German style found in northern Carroll County. On the exterior, these include a datestone on the west gable end, a dentil cornice, a wide batten door, narrow slit windows at the west gable end of the basement, and stonework typical of the Pennsylvania German style. On the interior, these feature include a corner fireplace with ornamental mantelpiece, strap hinges and other hardware, and a board partition wall on the second story. Also on the property is a two-story stone springhouse of Pennsylvania German character and the foundation of a stone bank barn.

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National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Erb, Christopher, House  
Carroll County, Maryland

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Christopher Erb house is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay stone structure. It has a gable roof covered in standing-seam sheet metal. Interior-end brick chimneys rise from each gable end of the roof. It has a wood cornice with a dentil and saw-tooth design. The five-bay north facade has a central entrance on the first story and windows in the outer two bays of the first and second stories. The central bay on the second story has a window located in a lower position than the other windows to light the interior stair. The house is constructed into a bank so that its south facade has a ground-level basement. There is a double-tiered porch on the south facade and a one-story porch on the north facade.

The south facade has an asymmetrical ground level but a symmetrical facade on the upper stories. The ground level has two large doors each leading into one room of the two-room plan. A six-over-three window is in the easternmost bay of the three-bay facade. There is evidence that this section under the porch was whitewashed. The hardware at this section includes original thumb-latches and strap hinges. The first story of the south facade has a four-pane transom over a central entrance. The original door as well as window sash have been removed but the openings indicate that tall six-over-six or nine-over-six sash was located on the first story and shorter windows of six-over-six sash were on the second story. The stonework contains flat jack-arches on the first story and over the two doors on the basement level.

The east gable end has two windows on the first story with shorter windows in the two bays on the second story. The basement has a two-over-two sash window on the south side located under the first and second story windows. In the gable are two six-over-three windows.

The west gable end is symmetrically arranged. At the basement level are two narrow single-paned slit windows. The first and second stories have two windows each with the second story windows being slightly shorter than those on the first story. The gable has two six-over-three windows. In the gable above and between the two gable windows is an arched datestone with arched lintel. The datestone is inscribed with the following "1799/C. H+ER/MGA.E/PTE.ER/B.ERB." The datestone has not been completely deciphered. Following Pennsylvania German datestone tradition, 1799 is the date of construction and "CH+ER" stand for the husband and wife. The last two words are the family name "ERB • ERB", but the meaning of the middle section is not known.

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Erb, Christopher, House

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The exterior woodwork of the house includes a box cornice with a serpentine molding at its top. Below the box are ornamental rows of sawtooth designs, dentils with holes above the slots and a cove molding. The window frames at basement level indicate what the original frames probably consisted of before being encased in aluminum. These frames are constructed of three-by-three pieces of timber, mortised and pegged at the corners. The outer edges are covered with quarter-round molding. The door frames are constructed in a similar manner, framed in six-by-six timbers mortised and pegged in the corner with a bead edge on the door side. Quarter-round molding is located on the outer edge of the frames.

The interior is marked by a central hall plan with a stairway. It presently has two rooms on each side of the stair hall, and the partitioning of these rooms appears to be original. The east side contains a kitchen in the northeast room. The fireplace at this level has been closed-in. In the hallway, the Pennsylvania German character of the house is displayed in the stair ends which have a curvilinear form ornamented by gouges and drops. The handrail has been replaced but in the attic the design of the original shaped handrail with turned balusters is preserved. The parlor and living room are on the west side of the house. The parlor contains a corner fireplace with a paneled overmantel with cove and dentil cornice.

With the house built into a slope, the basement served a major role in the life of the household. It appears that the east section of the basement was a summer kitchen. It has ground-level access, it was close to the springhouse, and it contained a stairway into it from the house. The fireplace is a large working fireplace which contains a ledge for a crane and several hooks for hanging. In the rear of the fireplace is an closed-in opening which indicates the location of an exterior beehive bakeoven (even though that exterior side is now underground). The fireplace mantel is a large beam with a beaded edge that is connected to the summer beam. The door in this section has tapered strap hinges with lozenge points and original thumb latch. This room was finished off as an interior room with split lathe covered in horsehair-and-lime plaster.

The other room in the basement has a large exterior entrance but is different in several characteristics. First, it does not have a window but instead has two small slit windows in the gable end. Another Pennsylvania German characteristic is the insulation between the joists of this section's ceiling consisting of mud and straw supported by wood slats fitted into grooves in the joists. This would indicate that this part of the house served as a root cellar, a typical basement layout for a Pennsylvania German house.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

On the second story, other ornamental features of the period can be seen. There is a mortised and tenoned, raised panel door. The southwest bedroom has the most elaborate woodwork found in the house, with its molded window frames with brackets and side panels. There is evidence that this room was heated with a ten-plate or similar type of stove.

The roof has an elaborate roof framing system of a typical German construction technique distinct from the common rafter roofs on houses of English derivation. It has a principal purlin system that supports common rafters which hold secondary purlins that carried the original shingles. The purlins are mortised into four roof trusses tied with collars. The purlins also have diagonal downbracing to the truss.

The springhouse is a two-story structure that is recessed into the ground over a spring that also contains Pennsylvania German characteristics. It is constructed of stone and has a beveled mortar joint. The main facade has three-bays with a door in the northernmost bay and six-over-six windows in the other two bays. A section of masonry around the door on the second story of the structure is whitewashed which may indicate an earlier porch configuration from the full-length, double-tiered porch on the west facade. The door was originally a six-paneled door that has been altered but still contains tapered strap hinges with heart-shaped points. The original door to the main house is here and has tapered strap hinges with round points and a box lock. The main floor of the springhouse has later partitions dividing this floor into four rooms. In the northwest room is an interior-end chimney with a stove flue. The northeast corner of the structure contains a corner stairway. The doors have tapered battens going from four-inch to three and one-quarter inch. They contain wrought iron strap hinges and an early style latch. The springhouse has a principal purlin roof framing system similar to the main house. Some of the beams in the roof framing system and in the first floor appear to have old mortises which would indicate that they were reused from another structure. The ground floor has a spring in the south room and a fireplace in the north room. All of the rooms on the main floor of the springhouse have chair rails and several have peg boards along the middle partition. Sitting in the springhouse is the original door to the main house. It is a thick handmade door with wrought nails and has an original wrought box lock. The lock was made with a outside handle that would unscrew. There is also a thumb-latch pull on the exterior of the door.

West of the main house is the remains of a stone foundation for a bank barn. One large vertical stone that formed the side of a doorway still exists that is carved with the following: "P.E. 1835." The barn would have been built by Christopher Erb's son, Peter. An 1875 sale bill for the property lists the barn as a "stone Switzer barn, 47 x 80." A survey of Carroll County barns taken in 1957 shows the structure in a ruinous condition at that time.

# 8. Significance

CARR-825

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Ethnic-Pennsylvania German history in Maryland				

Specific dates 1799 Builder/Architect Christopher Erb

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C  
 Applicable Exceptions: none  
 Significance Evaluated: local

## SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Christopher Erb House is an excellent example of Pennsylvania German construction in Carroll County. Architecturally it presents a number of Pennsylvania German building characteristics such as the stone construction, floor plan, and ornamental details. Historically, it shows the influence of Pennsylvania Germans in this area and their tradition of family farms. The range of Pennsylvania German architectural features in the Christopher Erb House includes use of interior woodwork, exterior cornice ornamentation, bank construction, insulation between the basement and upstairs, kitchen use of the basement level, roof framing techniques in the attic and springhouse, and the datestone (see 7, Description for a complete analysis). The Erb family was an early and influential family in the settlement of the Silver Run and Taneytown areas of Carroll County. Peter Erb appears in the patent records in the mid-eighteenth century. Christopher Erb applied for a resurvey in 1798 to consolidate his land holdings at the time that he was building his house. The property remained in the Erb family until 1879 (through two more generations) and the history of this family presents a representative view of the nineteenth century family farm in Carroll County.

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National Park Service

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The public records pertaining to the Erb family depict their history as one representative of the Pennsylvania German families that moved into the northern portions of Carroll County to establish family farms. A Peter Erb appears in a number of land transactions in the patent records during the 1760-70s. In 1798, it appears that his son, Christopher Erb, attempted to consolidate some of these holdings that had come under his ownership. This occurred at the same time that he was constructing the 1799 Christopher Erb house.

Unfortunately, Christopher Erb died without a will and there is no probate record of his estate. He died sometime shortly before 1810, when his son Peter applied for the patent that his father had sought twelve years earlier (Maryland Patent Office JK-T367; 10/1/1810). Christopher Erb had obtained a certificate of resurvey for "Erb's Pleasure" (773 acres; 12/13/1798), but the patent was rejected because, according to the Patent Office, there was no prior record of one of the tracts in the resurvey. Peter Erb, the only child of Christopher Erb, petitioned the Patent Office to grant the patent with the unrecorded portion being resubmitted as unpatented land and this was accepted by the Patent Office.

Christopher Erb's Pennsylvania German heritage is evident in the architectural characteristics of the house that he constructed in 1799. Its use of space, such as the basement summer kitchen and root cellar, relates to the family farming tradition of the Pennsylvania Germans. We can determine the basic make-up of the Erb family at this time by the 1800 census, which contains the following: "Christopher Erb: free white males--1 (10-16 years old); 1 (26-45 years old); and 1 (over 45); free white females--1 (10-16 years old); 1 (16-25 years old) and 1 (over 45); two slaves."

After he inherited the property circa 1810, Peter Erb continued to operate it as a family farm. He improved it through the construction of a stone bank barn in 1835. His 1842 estate records show the prosperity that many of the German families had attained in this region. It includes an extensive inventory (Frederick County Inventories GME 8/316-326) that contains an unusually high number of references to textiles. In his will (Frederick County Wills GME 2/146-149), Peter Erb divides his 440 acre farm between his two sons, Peter and Eli Erb.

Eli inherited the Christopher Erb House and continued its operation as a family farm. In 1879, he lost the property due to bankruptcy (Carroll County Equity Court, No. 1674). It continued in use as a farm property until 1976 when it was reduced in size to 37.77 acres. The land surrounding the house is still actively cultivated under the current ownership.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description / Justification:

The nominated property, 37.77 acres, encompasses the resource within its historic rural setting. Boundaries utilize existing property lines, as recorded in Carroll County Land Records Liber 811, Folio 98, and are defined visually by Big Pipe Creek on the south, Flickinger Road on the west, a ridge line on the north and woodland on the east. See attached plat.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

CARR-825

Land and Probate Records of Frederick and Carroll Counties  
State of Maryland Patent Records  
Kyler, James H., "Barns of Carroll County," 1957

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 37.77 acresQuadrangle name Littlestown PA-MDQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	8
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3	2	1	2	2	0
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4	3	9	2	6	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	8
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3	2	1	3	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	9	2	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	8
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3	2	9	6	0
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4	3	9	2	1	4	0
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D 

1	8
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3	2	0	9	8	0
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4	3	9	2	4	2	0
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E 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joe Gettyorganization Noodle-Doosey Pressdate August 17, 1984street & number P. O. Box 716telephone (301) 374-2605city or town Manchesterstate Maryland 21102

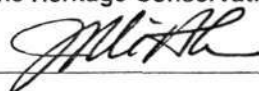
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

5-1-85title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

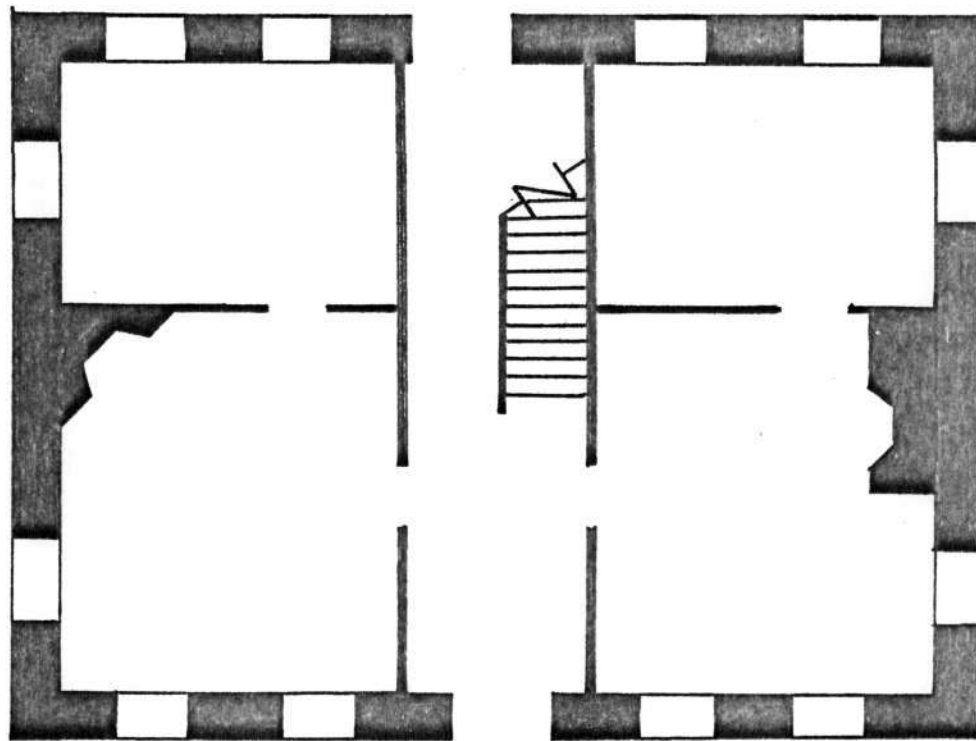
date

Chief of Registration

CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE

CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND

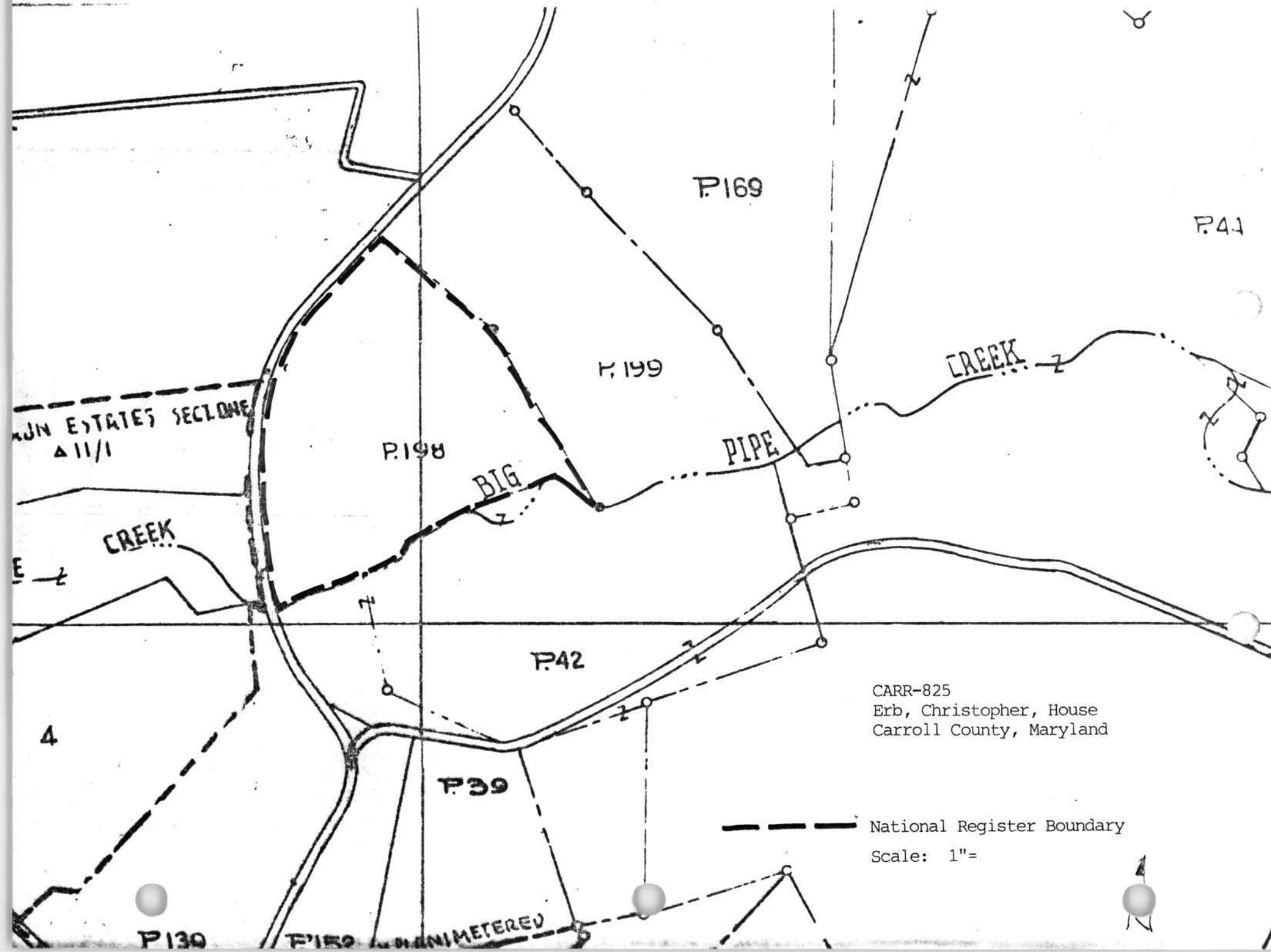
First floor plan  
Not to Scale



J. Getty

August 1984

CARR-825





CARR-825

CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE

Littlestown Quad

CARR-825

ERB, CHRISTOPHER,  
HOUSE

ARROLL COUNTY  
MARYLAND

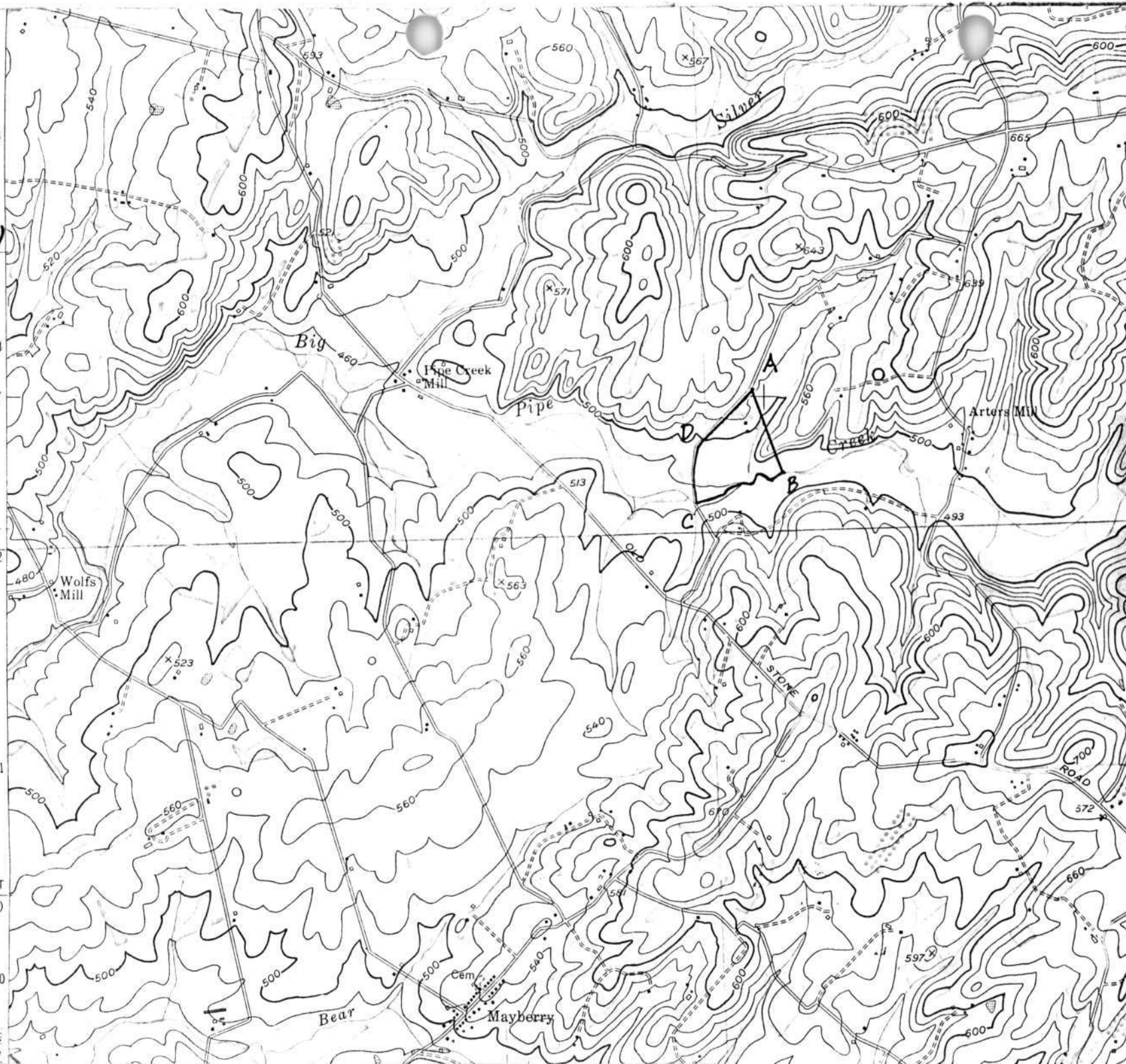
:18-321220-  
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:18-321360-  
4392280

:18-320960-  
4392140

:18-320980-  
4392420

660 000 FEET  
(MD.)



CARR-825

Christopher Erb House

3333 Flickinger Road, Westminster

Jennifer K. Cosham, 20 April 2006



Northwest elevation

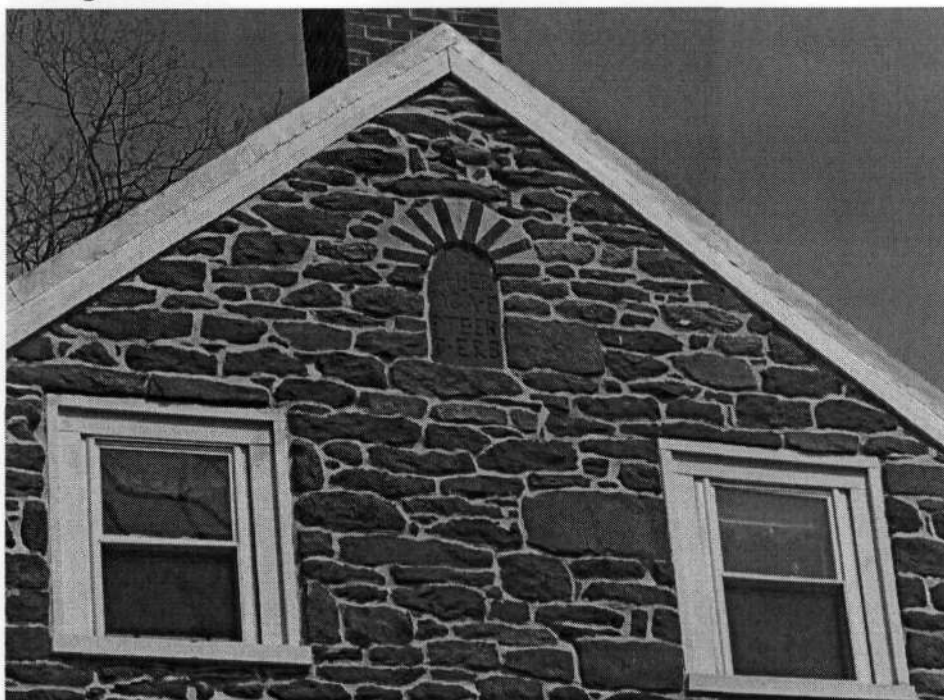


Northeast elevation

CARR-825  
Christopher Erb House  
3333 Flickinger Road, Westminster  
Jennifer K. Cosham, 20 April 2006



West gable end



Inscription, west gable end

CARR-825

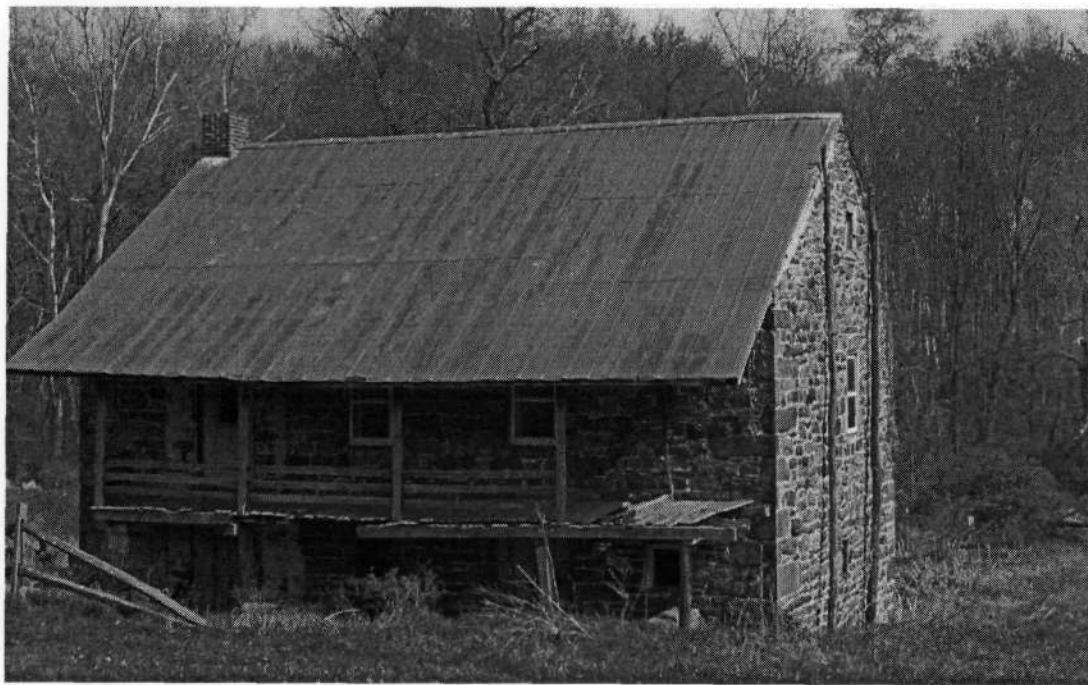
Christopher Erb House

3333 Flickinger Road, Westminster

Jennifer K. Cosham, 20 April 2006



Southwest elevation



Outbuilding, facing south

CARR-825  
Christopher Erb House  
3333 Flickinger Road, Westminster  
Jennifer K. Cosham, 20 April 2006



East gable end



1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE *CARP-825*
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. North & west elevations; camera  
facing southeast
7. 1/16



1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE
2. Carroll Connty, Maryland CARR-825
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. South & east facades; camera  
facing northwest
7. 2/16



1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE
  2. Carroll County, Maryland
  3. Joe Getty
  4. April 9, 1984
  5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
  6. Datestone; west gable end
  7. 3/16
- 9a.

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1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE      CARR-825
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Cornice detail; south facade
7. 4/16





1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Stair hall
7. 5/16

CARR-825



1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland CARR-825
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Stair hall: stair end design
7. 6/16





1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Attic: original stair design
7. 7/16

CARR-825





1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Interior: parlor mantelpiece
7. 8/16

CARR-825







1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE CARR-825
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Interior: parlor mantelpiece detail
7. 9/16



CARR-825

1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Southwest bedroom: door and frame
7. 10/16



PROCESSED BY

Kodak

JUN. 04 84



1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE CARR-825
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Basement: east room fireplace
7. 11/16





1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE *CARR-825*
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. June 16, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Basement: East room door
7. 12/16





CARR-825

1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. June 16, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Basement: west room insulation
7. 13/16





1. Christopher Erb House CARR-825
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. June 16, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md
6. Attic: Roof framing system
7. 14/16





1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE CARR-825
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md
6. Springhouse, n & w elevations
7. 15/16



1. CHRISTOPHER ERB HOUSE CARR-825
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. April 9, 1984
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Springhouse: Roof framing system
7. 16/16

